

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-05 SCCT-01

SAM-01 /069 W

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O P 051450Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4859

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 397

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: CASC (SMITH, HUNTER)

SUBJ: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS: DAR'S REQUEST FOR PRESS GUIDANCE

REF: (A) DAR 1914 (B) BUJUMBURA 395 (C) BUJUMBURA 396

1. WE HEARTILY AGREE ON NEED FOR COORDINATED PRESS APPROACH BUT BELIEVE REF A GOES FAR BEYOND WHAT IS NECESSARY AND IN ANY CASE EXCEEDS THE PARAMETERS OF VAGNI MISSION AS SO FAR AGREED WITH HIM. VAGNI IS PREPARED TO BE HELPFUL IN A COORDINATED EFFORT RATHER THAN, AT LEAST AT THIS STAGE, TO BECOME THE PUBLICLY DESIGNATED CHIEF FOCUS OF THE ATTEMPT TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS.

2. FURTHER WE SEE LITTLE TO BE GAINED BY HIGHLIGHTING APPROACH THROUGH HIM AS SOLE OR PRIMARY ONE. A NUMBER OF OTHER FEELERS ARE BEING FLOATED, INCLUDING BURUNDI CATHOLIC MISSION CHANNELS, DIRECT BUJUMBURA CONTACTS, AND
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THE STEINER PRESENCE IN BUJUMBURA WHICH HAS RECEIVED WIDE

RADIO COVERAGE CS XOTED IN REF C PARA 3.

3. WHILE WE HOPE TO USE VAGNI AS THE QTE POINT MAN UNQTE
IN DIRECT NEGOTIATION THIS FURTHER ROLE HAS NOT BEZF EX-
PLICITLY AGREED TO BY HIM, NOR DO WE THINK IT SHOULD BE
ANNOUNCED UNTIL IT HAS GONE INTO EFFECT.

4. ABOVE ALL WE FEEL IT UNDESIRABLE TO REVEAL OUR TACTICS
AND ACTIVITY TO PRESS. THIS BAD PRECEDENT WOULD INVITE FURTHER
PRESSURE FROM JOURNALISTS FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS AND COULD
LIMIT OUR FUTURE FLEXIBILITY. ALL THE PUBLIC NEEDS TO KNOW
AT PRESENT IS THAT OUR EFFORTS AT SECURING RELEASE OR PRISONERS
ARE UNREMITTING AND PURPOSEFUL.

5. WE SUGGEST THAT IF ANY STATEMENTS IS MADE AT THIS TIME
IT BE MORE NEARLY ALONG LINES OF REFERENCE B PARA 2
WITH MODIFICATION HAS NOT OCCURRED TO DATE, ALL GOVERNMENTS
(UNSPECIFIED) NOW AGREE ON THE NEED TO PURSUE EFFORTS TO
ESTABLISH CONTACTS AND DIALOGUE. UNQTEZX

6. IF STATEMENT IS TO BE ISSUED IN DAR OR BY THE DEPARTMENT
PERHAPS IT COULD BE ALONG LINES QTE IT IS OUR HOPE THAT
THROUGH THE WIDELY BROADCAST NEWS OF STEINER'S PRESENCE
IN BUJUMBURA AND IN OTHER WAYS, THE STUDENTS' CAPTORS WILL
INDICATE HOW, WHEN, AND WHERE THEY ARE PREPARED TO OPEN
A DIALOGUE. WHILE SUCH INDICATION HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVED TO
DATE, ALL GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED ARE AGREED ON THE NEED TO
PURSUE EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH CONTACTS AND DIALOGUE. UNQUOTE.
MARK

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